

Part 1 - Amendments to Specification

1. Replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 5-14, with the following paragraph:

This invention is related to other inventions made by at least one of the inventors herein for Individually-Contoured Seat Cushion and Shape Capturing and Fabricating Method for Seat Cushion described in U.S. patent application Serial No. [249.301] 10/628,858, and for Modular Seat Cushion with Interlocking Human Support and Base Portions and Method of Creating a Seat Cushion described in U.S. patent application Serial No. [249.302] 10/628,859, and for Apparatus and Method for Evaluating Clearance from a Contoured Seat Cushion described in U.S. patent application Serial No. [249.304] 10/628,890, all of which are filed concurrently herewith and all of which are assigned to the assignee of the present invention. The subject matter of these concurrently-filed applications is incorporated herein by reference.

2. Replace the paragraph on page 4, lines 1-10, with the following paragraph:

The cost of fabricating a custom wheelchair seat cushion can be substantial, for example, approximately \$3000 or more. Much of the expense of a custom wheelchair seat cushion results from the amount of time consumed, and the cost of the relatively sophisticated equipment which must be used to capture and transfer the anatomical shape of the user into the support contour of the seat cushion. Moreover, despite the use of sophisticated equipment, it is nevertheless difficult to capture the anatomical shape of the user and transfer it into a customized support contour. An appreciation of some of these difficulties in creating customized wheelchair seat cushions is discussed in the above-referenced U.S. patent application Serial No. [249.301] 10/628,858.

3. Replace the paragraph on page 10, lines 7-17, with the following paragraph:

A wheelchair seat cushion 20 having a support contour 22 which incorporates the present invention is shown in Fig. 1. In general, the wheelchair support cushion 20 is constructed of resilient plastic foam material, which is capable of providing the necessary resilience and support to the wheelchair user. The configuration of the support contour 22 is preferably constructed or otherwise molded as a part of the seat

cushion 20. Preferably, the resilient plastic foam material from which the seat cushion 20 is formed is a matrix of polyurethane or polyethylene plastic beads which have been adhered together during a molding process in which the support contour 22 is formed simultaneously with the seat cushion 22, as described more completely in the above-referenced U.S. patent application Serial No. [249-301] 10/628,858.

4. Replace the paragraph on page 19, lines 16-25, with the following paragraph:

By providing greater clearance in the area of the bony prominences and more support in the areas of broad tissue and muscle mass, the support contour 22 departs from an exact negative or complement of the shape of the user. However, to create the areas 32, 36 and 46 of enhanced clearance, and the areas 60, 62, 64 and 66 of enhanced support, it is necessary to obtain the shape of the specific user or a general class of users and then modify that shape to obtain the characteristics of the areas 32, 36, 46, 60, 62, 64 and 66. The above-referenced U.S. patent application Serial No. [249-301] 10/628,858 describes an advantageous technique for obtaining the anatomical shape of a wheelchair user and forming the cushion 20.

5. Replace the paragraph on page 20, lines 1-19, with the following paragraph:

The increased clearance from the areas 32, 36 and 46, and the increased prominence of the support areas 60, 62, 64 and 66 also makes the support contour 22 more generally applicable to classes of individual users. By adjusting the extent of clearances and prominences of the areas 32, 36, 46, 60, 62, 64 and 66 to accommodate a few classes of individual users. For example, one standard variation of the support contour 22 may primarily accommodate the wider spread and shallower slope of the ischial tuberosities of the female skeletal bone structure. Another standard variation of the support contour 22 may accommodate the narrower and steeper slope of the ischial tuberosities of the male skeletal bone structure. Another standard variation of the support contour 22 is not gender-specific, but has a deeper and steeper profile. This deeper and steeper support contour 22 may provide better protection for individuals with soft tissue atrophy. However regardless of sex or degree of tissue

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atrophy, any user may prefer any one of these different standard variations of support contours, depending on personal comfort, support and preference. The benefits of the support contour 22 thereby extend to a substantial population of wheelchair users without requiring that population to obtain a custom wheelchair cushion. This benefit is more specifically described in the above-referenced U.S. patent application Serial No. [249,302] 10/628,859.